



PHARMACIST Guidelines for Ebola

What to do if a sick patient comes to the pharmacy

1. Evaluate the Patient

 YES NO

Does the patient have the following symptoms¹:

- Fever (>38C / 100.4F)
- Severe Headache
- Muscle Pain
- Vomiting/Diarrhea
- Abdominal Pain
- Unexplained Hemorrhage

 YES NO

Does the patient meet the following high risk exposure criteria:

- Travel to countries with widespread EVD transmission as reported by CDC (www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/distribution-map.html) or WHO
- Contact with blood or other body fluids of a patient with known or suspected Ebola infection
- Direct handling of bats or non-human primates from disease-endemic areas

2. If YES to BOTH Criteria

Limit exposure by keeping distance²

- Close contact is defined as prolonged exposure within 3 feet.
- Identify location to isolate patient while waiting for transport to hospital.
- While it's very unlikely that a symptomatic patient with Ebola would present to a pharmacy, ensure patient is kept at least 3 feet away from customers and staff.

Refer patient to hospital emergency room



- Transport should be via private vehicle, if possible. Call for ambulance transport if needed.
- Notify hospital of pending patient arrival, to allow them to prepare isolation area.

Notify Local Health Department³

- Health Department phone number: _____
Directory of Local Health Departments is available at www.naccho.org/about/lhd/
- The Health Department will notify CDC.
- Review all contact with patient with the Health Department. They will evaluate and decide on further monitoring or testing⁴.



2. If YES to BOTH Criteria (continued)



Notify your company Pharmacy District Manager or risk management program

- Name & phone number to contact: _____



Disinfect surfaces, wash hands thoroughly with soap and water

- Use 10% bleach or disinfectant that is labeled as effective against unenveloped viruses such as Norovirus⁵.
- Limited studies have shown that regular cleaning in a healthcare setting results in undetectable viral RNA on surfaces even during an active outbreak response².
- If cleanup of bodily fluids is required, ensure that safe procedures are used⁶.
 - Block off the area until cleanup and disinfection is complete. No visitors or unprotected staff members should be able to access the area.
 - Use appropriate personal protective equipment (gloves, gown, eye protection, face shield).
 - Wipe up the bodily fluids as much as possible with paper towel or other absorbent material.
 - Gently pour disinfectant (or 10% bleach solution) onto all contaminated areas.
 - Let disinfectant remain on contaminated area for 20 minutes and then wipe up remaining bleach solution.
 - Remove gloves and place in a biohazard bag with all other soiled cleaning materials.
 - Double bag and secure biohazard bags in a puncture-resistant container. This material is considered hazardous material and must be transported and discarded properly⁷.
 - Thoroughly wash hands with soap and water.



3. Additional Resources — Stay Informed



- WHO Global Alert and Response: Ebola
www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/
- CDC Ebola Virus Disease www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/
- National Libraries of Medicine Disaster Information Management Research Center
sis.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/ebola_2014.html

FOOTNOTES

- CDC. Checklist for Patients Being Evaluated for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in the United States
- CDC. Review of Human-to-Human Transmission of Ebola Virus
- NACCHO. Directory of Local Health Departments
- CDC. Algorithm for Evaluation of the Returned Traveler
- EPA listing of disinfectants effective against Norovirus
- CDC. Interim Guidance for Environmental Infection Control in Hospitals for Ebola Virus.
- Department of Transportation Guidance for Transporting Ebola Contaminated Items, a Category A Infectious Substance



Rx Response is an independent, not-for-profit (501(c)3) organization dedicated to ensuring the supply of medicine to patients after public health emergencies. For more information, contact Rx Response at ContactUs@rxresponse.org.